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According to the Boycheva article, the library includes a section on Bulgarian Historical Archives, which investigates and preserves all historical material, as well as entire archives. This section keeps more than 300,000 valuable documents dating from 9 September 1944 to the present documents such as manifestos, proclamations, memoranda, registers, and many others. The papers of such personalities as Rakovski, Levski, and P. Chitov are preserved with the greatest care. In the near future, a large collection of material on the April uprisings is to be published.

The Boycheva article went on to say that every visitor, whether worker or scientist, who displays interest in the distant past, hundreds of years back, is supplied with abundant source material by the Department of Orientalology. This department dates back to the days of Count Alabin, who donated to the library many cases of priceless material which had been gathered by the Russian liberation troops. The department has hundreds of thousands of documents of great value for the study of all centuries of Bulgarian history, as well as for the study of the history of Turkey, its military campaigns, and its relations with Russia. The Department of Orientalology also has a rich collection of Oriental manuscripts and prints in the spheres of astronomy, geography, mathematics, and other sciences. The writings of Avicenna from the 10th Century are also kept in this department.

Bulgaria's second largest library is the "Ivan Vazov" Library in Plovdiv, which contains over 250,000 volumes. Next are the libraries of Turnovo (120,000 volumes), Kolarovgrad (100,000 volumes), Stalin (110,000 volumes), Burgas, and Svishtov. The three last-named libraries were founded in 1945.

2. The Scientific Libraries

Scientific libraries include the library of the University of Sofia, which was founded in 1888 and contains 340,000 volumes; the library of the Polytechnical Academy; the library of the Academy of Economic Sciences; the libraries of the institutes of advanced education in Stalin, Svishtov, and Plovdiv; the library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, which contains 70,000 volumes; the libraries of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (48,000 volumes), the Defense Ministry (over 40,000 volumes), the "Vasil Levski" Military Academy (27,000 volumes), the Bulgarian National Bank (30,000 volumes), the Ministry of Education (26,000 volumes), and the People's Assembly (25,000 volumes); and the libraries of the Sofia Court, the Central Administration for Statistics, the Press Directorate, the Committee for Science, Art, and Culture, the Academy of Art and Music, and the Bulgarian Institute of Bibliography.

The libraries of the University of Sofia, the institutes of advanced education in Stalin and Svishtov, the Academy of Sciences, the Press Directorate, the Committee on Science, Art, and Culture, and the Institute of Bibliography, as well as all national libraries each receive free of charge one copy of all books, periodicals, and newspapers published in Bulgaria.

3. The Libraries of the Public Reading Rooms

The Bulgarian public reading rooms (Narodno chitalishte) date back to 1856. These reading rooms were established and maintained by the people themselves. They are the focal points of cultural enlightenment and include libraries and reading rooms. They sponsor lectures (people's universities), motion picture presentations, courses to end illiteracy, courses in self-education, literary and scientific groups, book discussion groups, literary and musical presentations, etc.

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A law promulgated in 1945 gave great impetus to the development of the people's reading rooms. Today, nearly every village in Bulgaria has its reading room. The active membership of the 4,000 Bulgarian reading rooms totals 500,000.

Every reading room has its own library. The libraries of the village reading rooms generally contain from 200 to 2,000 books, whereas those of the obshtina (municipal) reading rooms contain from 5,000 to 30,000 volumes. The joint inventories of all libraries of people's reading rooms total 3,500,000 volumes of scientific and classical literature. In recent years the libraries of the reading rooms have been used widely. In the larger villages, 50 to 100 books are withdrawn daily. The most active libraries lend out 200 to 300 books a day. The libraries of the reading rooms, which are based to a large extent on the experience of Soviet libraries, play an important role at present in the efforts to raise the cultural level of the workers, and to re-educate them in socialistic ideals.

The state gives generous support to the reading rooms. In 1949, for example, the state appropriated 64 million leva for the Union of People's Reading Rooms.

4. The Industrial Libraries

According to the Law on People's Reading Rooms, it is mandatory for every factory or enterprise which employs more than 50 persons to establish and maintain a reading room and a library. Today Bulgaria has about 2,000 industrial libraries, with a total of 800,000 volumes. These libraries are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Cultural Enlightenment, of the Central Council of Trade Unions.

According to a second law proclaimed in 1949, the managements of the largest factories and enterprises must employ librarians, on a contract basis, whereas in smaller factories and enterprises this work is to be entrusted to the members of the activist groups. This enables the workers of small enterprises to engage in a wide range of activities. Large enterprises have well-organized libraries stocked with several thousand volumes. They encourage their readers to broaden their scope of knowledge. They assist the workers in improving their qualifications for their work, and in mastering Marxism-Leninism. They also train the workers and members of their families in the art of systematic reading and awaken their interest in literature.

5. The School Libraries

Every school has its own library. There are approximately 10,000 such libraries in Bulgaria. Following the purging and restocking of their shelves, these libraries resumed their orderly activities and reorganized in such a way as to be able to satisfy the requirements of Bulgaria's 1,200,000 students.

6. The Children's Libraries

Nearly all national libraries and libraries of the reading rooms have children's departments. Special children's libraries have been established in Sofia, Plodiv, Sevlievo, and various other cities. The best organized of these children's libraries are those in Sofia (one central library and eight branches with a total of 30,000 volumes), which are subordinate to and maintained by the Sofia People's Soviet.

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Bulgaria also has a number of "miscellaneous" libraries, such as municipal libraries (Sofia's two city libraries are stocked with 80,000 volumes and have an average daily withdrawal of 300 books), party libraries (i.e., libraries of the organizations and committees of the Bulgarian Communist Party), military libraries (located in the buildings of the People's Army and of its military units), and libraries of the Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship Societies.

Altogether, Bulgaria has approximately 18,000 libraries with a total of 15 million volumes.

Aside from the organization of the library system, much work has been expended since the liberation on training library personnel and on developing the theory and methodology of systematic library management. Significant progress has been achieved in the bibliographical sphere. The center of bibliographical activity is the Bulgarian Institute of Bibliography, named after the great Bulgarian author Elin-Pelin, who died in 1949. In 1948, the Institute of Bibliography in cooperation with the National /State ?/ Library, created the first institute to train librarians for scientific libraries, which has been attended by 70 students thus far. In cooperation with the Union of People's Reading Rooms and with the trade unions, the institute conducted a course for 100 librarians of general libraries (urban and rural). The Institute for the Training of Librarians has developed into an independent library school which is to be endowed with the status of an institute of advanced education in 1953. The Union of People's Reading Rooms, the Central Council of Trade Unions, and other organizations in Sofia and in the provinces are also conducting a number of elementary and advanced library courses.

An international book exchange has also been organized by the Institute of Bibliography. At present, the institute is compiling two national bibliographies, The Bulgarian Book and the Bulgarian Periodical Press, which are about to be completed. The Institute of Bibliography has also created a Bureau of Library Management.

The Committee on Science, Art, and Culture, which is concerned with the development and control of the library system in Bulgaria, is setting up a special office on librarianship whose missions will be (a) the establishment of a library network, (b) the improvement of the qualifications of library personnel, (c) the organization of librarian training courses, (d) the introduction of standard work techniques for scientific and general libraries, and (e) the establishment of a central reference catalog. These tasks are to be carried out in the near future.

Bulgaria's libraries are based on the pattern of Soviet libraries. -- Zenko Tsvetanov

PEOPLE'S READING ROOM IN SUKHINDOL -- Berlin, Der Bibliothekar, No 4, Apr 53

The People's Reading Room in Sukhindol, which holds 500 persons, forms the focal point of the village's political and cultural activities. It has developed into a center of scientific and political education for the working farmers. The Communists of the village are the organizers of all political activity. The members of the intelligentsia, the teachers, agronomists, and physicians take a decisive part in the cultural work of the reading room.

The reading room is presided over by a group of lecturers composed of the director of the secondary school, one teacher, and the chairman of the TKSZ (cooperative labor farm). Twice weekly, lectures are held on various topics.

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The Sukhindol library has about 15,000 volumes and subscribes to 20 different newspapers and periodicals from the USSR. -- P. Golubyev

PRESS PUBLICATION FIGURES -- Sofia, Naruchnik na Agitatora, No 13, May 53

At present, 67 newspapers and 90 periodicals with 2,364,560 (single-edition) copies are being published in Bulgaria. The number of factory publications is 141, but it is expected that 65 more will be published. -- S. Buchvarova

LIST PERIODICALS FOR SUBSCRIPTION -- Stalin, Stalinsko Zname, 6 Mar 53

According to the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone [and Radio], the following periodicals may be subscribed to only until 20 March 1953: Bulgaro-Suvetska Druzha, V Zashtita na Mira, Geografiya, Druzhinka, Istori-cheski Pregled, Kooperativno Zemedelie, Kino, Kulturna Turgoviya, Naruchnik na Agitatora (in Bulgarian and Turkish), Nauka i Tekhnika za Mladezhata, Plamuche, Pionerska Samodeynost, Priroda i Znanie, Septemvri, Sreden Meditsinski Rabotnik, Transportno Delo, Teatur, Uchilishtna Praktika, Farmatsiya, Filosofska Misul, Khirurgiya, and Shakhmatna Misul.

Subscriptions for all publications except Naruchnik na Agitatora will begin with 1 January 1953 issues. Naruchnik na Agitatora will begin on 1 April 1953.

Subscriptions are taken at all post offices, by managers of enterprises, departments, TKZS, and MTS, and by postmen and rural couriers.

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